

THE THEATRE COLLECTS AMERICAN ART

Friends of the Whitney Museum of American Art



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THE THEATRE COLLECTS AMERICAN ART

April 10 — May 16, 1961

Fourth Loan Exhibition by the
Friends of the Whitney Museum of American Art

Whitney Museum of American Art, 22 West 54th Street, New York

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Foreword

In presenting the exhibition “The Theatre Collects American Art,” the Friends of the Whitney give us a sampling of the predilections in collecting of present day actors, playwrights and producers. The exhibition is limited to American art of the 20th century.

The affinity between actor and artist is a natural one. Many actors have found inspiration through the sweep of a figure or a brushed gesture in a canvas. Charles Laughton has stated that nothing gives him greater understanding of what an actor should do on a stage than studying the drawings of the Japanese master, Hokusai, to observe how the artist depicts a man walking across a bridge against the wind, or climbing a mountain path. Surely some of Elsa Lanchester’s improvisations are straight out of Hogarth. In doing films Laughton frequently sends his cameramen to museums to study Japanese prints.

Joseph Jefferson, while speaking of the difficulties actors of original talents had in a conventional theatre world, had even greater sympathy for the painter. He maintained that painters suffered even more at the hands of Academicians whenever they had the courage to be unconventional or experimental in their work.

Many actors have come to appreciate the visual arts through ‘sitting for a portrait.’ The artist seeks, delves, draws out a sitter much as the actor dissects a character he is studying. A mutual respect for and understanding of each other’s art forms usually develops. David Garrick and Gainsborough had much correspondence over how Gainsborough would do a composite portrait Garrick wanted of himself and Shakespeare; it ended with Garrick standing

in a wooded glenn leaning against a bust of the bard. Done in Gainsborough's flashier "Bath" period it is still a sympathetic portrait. Garrick was painted by thirteen other artists including Reynolds and Hogarth and he purchased, among other works of art, four of Hogarth's canvases for his home at Hampton.

The paths of actor, playwright and artist have crossed and re-crossed through history. In 1771, Voltaire is known to have advised Catherine the Great to buy, "en bloc," the famous French collection of François Tronchin. Sarah Bernhardt spoke of her "delicious" little pictures, Sacha Guitry and Jean Cocteau built admirable collections. In our time, it has remained for Edward G. Robinson and Vincent Price to collect in the grand manner—that is, with discernment and love that amounts to passion.

The present exhibition is evidence of a continuing and strengthening relationship between the arts. Many individuals represented here by one or two canvases have splendid collections.

The members of the Exhibitions Committee of the Friends wish to thank all the lenders for their unfailing generosity and cooperation. We wish also to thank the Museum staff, especially Mr. John Gordon, on whom the burden of most of the assembling of this exhibition fell.

ELOISE SPAETH

*Chairman, Exhibition Committee
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About the Friends

The Friends of the Whitney Museum is a non-profit organization of collectors and others concerned with the welfare of American art, who have joined forces to assist the Whitney by increasing its purchases of works by American artists and to carry on a general program aimed at stimulating a wider interest in American art.

In the brief span of five years we have grown to about 175 members and have purchased for the Museum 39 paintings and 11 pieces of sculpture. I believe that this part of our program has contributed materially both to the support of living artists and to the greater understanding of their work.

A very important part of the Friends' program is its series of exhibitions—of which this is the fourth. Last year we showed paintings and sculptures from the collections owned by American Businesses. This year we are exhibiting works selected from the collections of people in the theatre: the legitimate stage, motion pictures, radio and television. It is the hope of the Friends that this effort will prove a stimulus to others in the theatre to enjoy the pleasures and rewards of collecting American art.

Inserted in this catalogue, you will find an invitation to join the Friends and to help us with the important task we have undertaken. To do so is an affirmation of one's belief in the vital contribution which contemporary art makes to contemporary civilization.

ROY R. NEUBERGER

President, Friends of the Whitney Museum of American Art

Friends of the Whitney Museum of American Art

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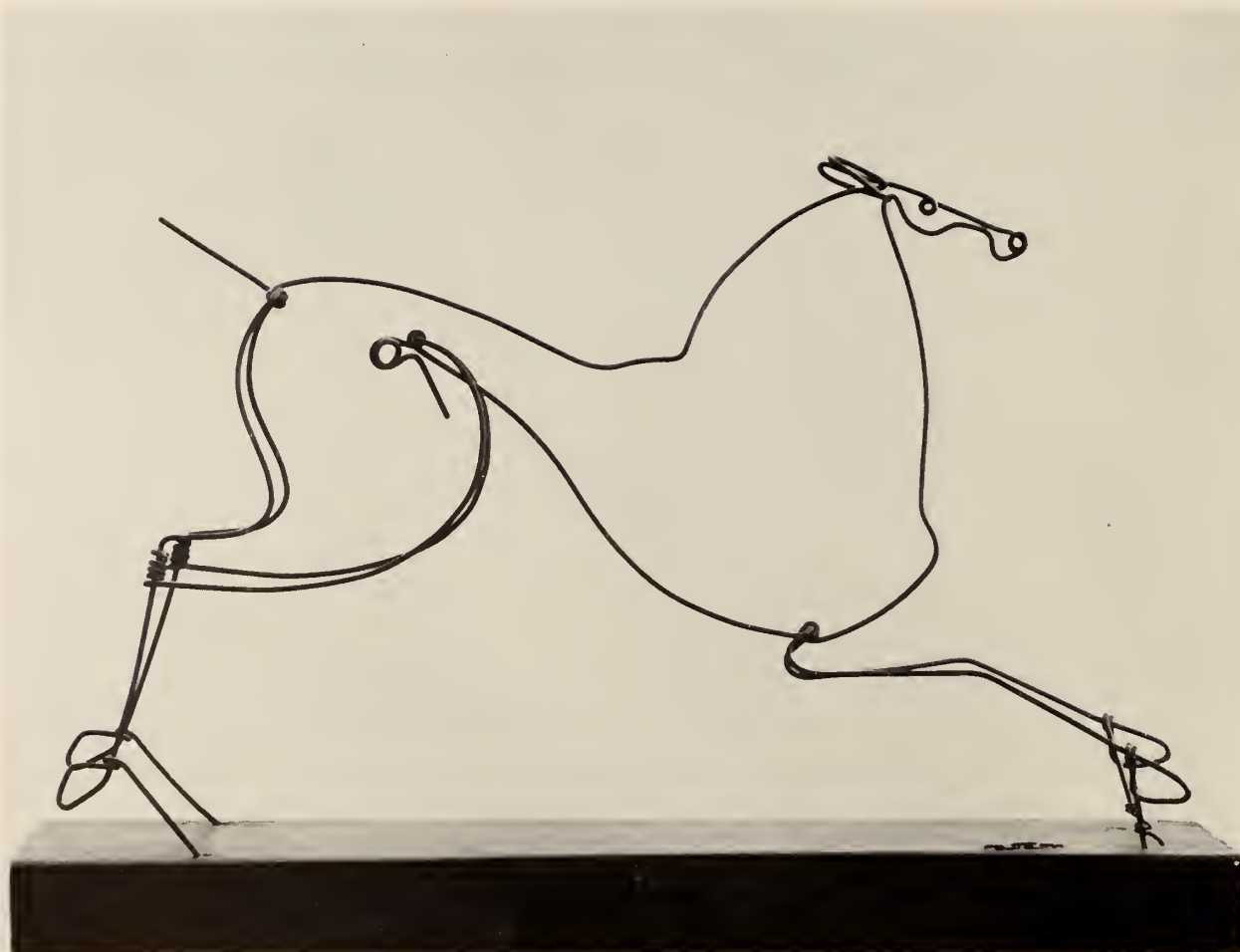
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Catalogue

ALEXANDER CALDER: *Circus Horse*. Lent by Mr. Al Hirschfeld.



Dimensions unless otherwise specified are in inches, height preceding width. The largest dimension of sculpture is given in inches. Oils are on canvas unless otherwise specified.

ALBERS, JOSEF

- 1 *Echo of Yellow*. 1956. Oil. 30 x 30.
Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Michael Blankfort.

AUSTIN, DARREL

- 2 *Young Beast by the Surf*. 1959. Oil. 15 x 17.
Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Steve Allen.

AVERY, MILTON

- 3 *Umbrellas at Acapulco*. 1947. Oil. 34 x 24.
Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Norman Rose.

BASKIN, LEONARD

- 4 *Custos Morum*. 1957. Ink. 31 x 22½.
Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Melnick.

BAZIOTES, WILLIAM

- 5 *The Sea*. 1954. Oil. 24 x 30.
Lent by Mr. and Mrs. André Previn.

BENTON, THOMAS HART

- 6 *Still Life*. 1935. Tempera. 28 x 18¾.
Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Fonda.

BISCHOFF, ELMER

- 7 *Two Figures at the Seashore*. 1956. Oil. 57 x 58.
Lent by Mr. Sterling Holloway.

BLAUSTEIN, AL

- 8 *Umbria*. 1957. Oil on composition board.
28 x 36.
Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Bill Cullen.

BLUME, PETER

- 9 *New England Barn*. 1926. Oil. 24 x 36.
Lent by Mr. Leonard Spigelgass.

BRICE, FANNY

- 10 *Still Life with Flowers*. Watercolor. 3 x 5.
Lent by Miss Gypsy Rose Lee.
- 11 *Still Life with Mandolin*. Watercolor. 3¾ x 4¾.
Lent by Miss Gypsy Rose Lee.

BRICE, WILLIAM

- 12 *Figure No. I*. 1960. Oil on paper. 26 x 20.
Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Paul Newman.
- 13 *Two Nudes*. Ink. 23¾ x 18¾.
Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Price.

BROKAW, LUCILE

- 14 *Golden One*. 1959. Collage. 48 x 24.
Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Barrett.

BURCHFIELD, CHARLES

- 15 *Old House Among Trees*. 1946.
Watercolor. 39 x 26.
Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Donald Oenslager.
- 16 *Over the Dam*. 1936. Watercolor. 21 x 30.
Lent by Miss Katharine Cornell.

CALDER, ALEXANDER

- 17 *Circus Horse*. 1926. Wire. 24 L.
Lent by Mr. Al Hirschfeld.

CALDER, ALEXANDER

- 18 *Head for "Happy as Larry."* Oil on canvas on wood. 47 H.
Lent by Mr. Burgess Meredith.

CALLAHAN, KENNETH

- 19 *Totemic Drift*. 1955. Oil. 43 x 31.
Lent by Mr. Burgess Meredith.

CLOAR, CARROLL

- 20 *A Resting*. 1951. Tempera. 18 x 24.
Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Richard S. Stark.

D'ARISTA, ROBERT

- 21 *Coffee Table*. 1954. Oil. 24 x 34.
Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Tony Randall.

DE DIEGO, JULIO

- 22 *Tiger*. Oil. 34 x 44.
Lent by Miss Gypsy Rose Lee.

DE KOONING, WILLEM

- 23 *Montauk Highway*. 1958. Oil. 58½ x 48.
Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Michael Blankfort.

DICKINSON, EDWIN

- 24 *Portrait*. 1941. Pencil. 10¾ x 12¾.
Lent by Mr. David Daniels.

DICKINSON, PRESTON

- 25 *Still Life with Fruit and Pitcher*. Pastel.
24½ x 18½.
Lent by Mr. Elmer Rice.

DIEBENKORN, RICHARD

- 26 *Berkeley 13*. Oil. 69 x 54¾.
Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Price.

DOVE, ARTHUR G.

- 27 *Moon and Sun*. 1932. Oil. 18 x 21¾.
Lent by Mr. and Mrs. André Previn.

DU CASSE, RALPH

- 28 *Portrait of a Lady*. Oil. 72 x 47¾.
Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Price.

DURCHANEK, LOUIS

- 29 *Seated Man*. 1959. Hammered copper. 39 H.
Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Sidney S. Kingsley.

EVERGOOD, PHILIP

- 30 *Dancer in the Ballet Attitude*. 1959. Oil. 26 x 38.
Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Norman Rose.

FEININGER, LYONEL

- 31 *Niedergrunstadt*. 1916. Watercolor. 7½ x 10½.
Collection of Mr. Clifford Odets.

FOY, GRAY

- 32 *Promise of Autumn*. Oil. 40 x 30.
Lent by Miss Dina Merrill.

GLASCO, JOSEPH

- 33 *Sleepers*. 1949-50. Oil. 29 x 55.
Lent by Mr. John Butler.

GOLDBERG, MICHAEL

- 34 *Little Bank*. 1960. Oil. 16 x 16.
Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Barrett.

GOODNOUGH, ROBERT

- 35 *Summer, No. 1*. 1959. Oil. 70 x 82.
Lent by Mr. Herbert Machiz.

GRAVES, MORRIS

- 36 *In the Night*. 1943. Tempera and ink. 23¼ x 29¼.
Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Laughton.

GROSZ, GEORGE

- 37 *Strip Tease*. Watercolor. 16 x 24.
Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Harpo Marx.
- 38 *Subway Scene*. 1934. Watercolor. 23 x 17.
Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Harpo Marx.

GUSTON, PHILIP

- 39 *Ceremony*. 1957. Oil. 25 x 36.
Lent by Mr. William Inge.

GWATHMEY, ROBERT

- 40 *Untitled*. Oil. 10¼ x 8¼.
Lent by Miss Lillian Hellman.

HADZI, DMITRI

- 41 *Centaur*. c. 1958. Bronze. 60 L.
Lent by Mr. Jack Lawrence.

HARTIGAN, GRACE

- 42 *Bray*. 1958. Oil. 60 x 60.
Lent by Mr. William Inge.

HEBALD, MILTON

- 43 *Margo in Venice*. 1957-59. Bronze. 19½ H.
Lent by Miss Margaret Phillips.

HOFMANN, HANS

- 44 *The Ravine*. 1955. Oil. 30 x 40.
Lent by Miss Benay Venuta and Mr. Fred Clark.

KANE, JOHN

- 45 *Industry's Increase*. 1933. Oil. 31½ x 39½.
Lent by Mr. and Mrs. William S. Paley.

KAZ, NATHANIEL

- 46 *Don Quixote*. 1941/54. Bronze. 90 H.
Lent by Mr. Billy Rose.

KOERNER, HENRY

- 47 *Playing Pretend*. 1947. Tempera. 25½ x 21.
Lent by Mr. and Mrs. William Keighley.

KUNIYOSHI, YASUO

- 48 *Lover's Pike*. 1946. Oil. 27 x 44.
Lent by Mr. Jack Lawrence.
- 49 *Young Couple (Self-portrait)*. 1921-22? Oil.
30 x 24¼.
Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Green.

LEVEE, JOHN

- 50 *July III, 1957*. 1957. Oil. 46½ x 29.
Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Rodgers.

LEVINE, JACK

- 51 *1932*. 1959. Oil. 56 x 49.
Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Dalton Trumbo.

LUKS, GEORGE

- 52 *Otis Skimmer as Col. Bridau in "The Honor of the Family"*. c. 1919. Oil. 30 x 42.
Lent by Miss Cornelia Otis Skinner.

MACDONALD-WRIGHT, STANTON

- 53 *Still Life, Apples*. 1943. Oil. 20 x 29.
Lent by Mr. Gene Kelly

MACIVER, LOREN

- 54 *Strawberries*. 1957. Charcoal. 8 x 8.
Lent by Mr. John Butler.

MARSH, REGINALD

- 55 *Minsky Chorus*. 1935. Tempera. 29½ x 26.
Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Albert Hackett.

MENKES, SIGMUND

- 56 *The Hat*. Oil. 20½ x 16¼.
Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Rodgers.

MORRIS, KYLE

- 57 *Montauk Point*. 1959. Oil. 49 x 55½.
Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Melnick.

MOSTEL, ZERO

- 58 *The "Singer."* c. 1954. Oil. 19 x 24.
Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Adler.

O'KEEFFE, GEORGIA

- 59 *Ranchos Church Front*. 1929. Oil. 20 x 36.
Lent by Mr. Jack Lawrence.

OLIVERA, NATHAN

- 60 *Fish*. 1957. Oil and collage. 20 x 14.
Lent by Mr. Sterling Holloway.

OSBORN, ROBERT

- 61 *Don Quixote*. 1955-56? Ink. 29½ x 21¼.
Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Green.

OSCAR, CHARLES

- 62 *Page*. 1954. Casein. 30¼ x 22¼.
Lent by Mr. Orson Bean.

PALMER, WILLIAM

- 63 *Arrival of the Archbishop*. 1959. Oil. 16 x 20.
Lent by Mr. Roger Gerry.

PEREIRA, I. RICE

- 64 *Untitled*. 1952. Watercolor. 34 x 43½.
Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Adler.

PIPPIN, HORACE

- 65 *Night Call*. 1941. Oil. 36 x 32.
Collection of Mr. Clifford Odets.

POLLOCK, JACKSON

- 66 *Untitled*. Oil on composition board. 21½ x 12¾.
Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Price.

RATTNER, ABRAHAM

- 67 *Sag Harbor, No. 2*. 1957. Oil. 45½ x 35¼.
Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Albert Hackett.

- 68 *Untitled*. Gouache. 12 x 12.
Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Abe Burrows.

RIVERS, LARRY

- 69 *Birdie in the Garden*. 1954. Oil. 61¼ x 51¼.
Lent by Mr. David Daniels.

SATO, TADASHI

- 70 *No. 4*. 1957. Oil. 30 x 47.
Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Laughton.

SHAHN, BEN

- 71 *East Twelfth Street*. 1947. Tempera. 29½ x 23½.
Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Albert Hackett.
- 72 *O, When the Saints*. 1956. Tempera. 53 x 30.
Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Fred W. Friendly.
- 73 *Homeric Struggle*. 1953. Ink. 46½ x 67½.
Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Jack Jungmeyer, Jr.

SLOAN, JOHN

- 74 *Gramercy Park*. 1912? Oil. 20 x 24.
Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Albert Hackett.

SOYER, RAPHAEL

- 75 *Pink Slip*. c. 1942. Oil. 20 x 24.
Lent by Miss Benay Venuta and Mr. Fred Clark.

TAM, REUBEN

- 76 *Dunes and Stars*. 1948. Oil. 25 x 34.
Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Tony Randall.

TCHELITCHEW, PAVEL

- 77 *Fata Morgana*. Oil. 25¼ x 20¾.
Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Zachary Scott.
- 78 *Portrait of Charles Henri Ford*. 1933. Oil.
39 x 28¾.
Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Zachary Scott.

THON, WILLIAM

- 79 *The Overlook*. 1952. Oil. 22 x 36.
Lent by Miss Bonnie Cashin.

VENUTA, BENAY

- 80 *Portrait of Ethel Merman as Momma Rose in
"Gypsy."* 1960. Oil. 30 x 20.
Lent by Miss Ethel Merman.

VICKREY, ROBERT

- 81 *Nun with Puppets*. 1952. Tempera. 37 x 23.
Lent by Mr. James Monks.

WASEY, JANE

- 82 *The Frog*. 1958. Granite. 13 L.
Lent by Miss Katharine Cornell.

WEBER, MAX

- 83 *Still Life*. 1911. Oil. 21 x 18½.
Collection of Mr. Clifford Odets.
- 84 *Still Life with Two Tables*. 1940. Oil. 28½ x 36½.
Lent by Mr. and Mrs. William Goetz.

WILT, RICHARD

- 85 *Great Show*. 1953. Mixed media. L. & R. Panels
28¾ x 21 each. C. Panel 28¾ x 14.
Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Zachary Scott.

WOOD, GRANT

- 86 *Arbor Day*. 1932. Oil. 35 x 29.
Lent by Mr. and Mrs. King Vidor.
- 87 *Spring Turning*. c. 1936. Charcoal. 15½ x 39.
Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Leland Hayward.

WYETH, ANDREW

- 88 *Chambered Nautilus*. 1956. Tempera. 25 x 48.
Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Montgomery.

Illustrations

ANDREW WYETH: *Chambered Nautilus*. Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Montgomery.





LARRY RIVERS: *Birdie in the Garden*. Lent by Mr. David Daniels.



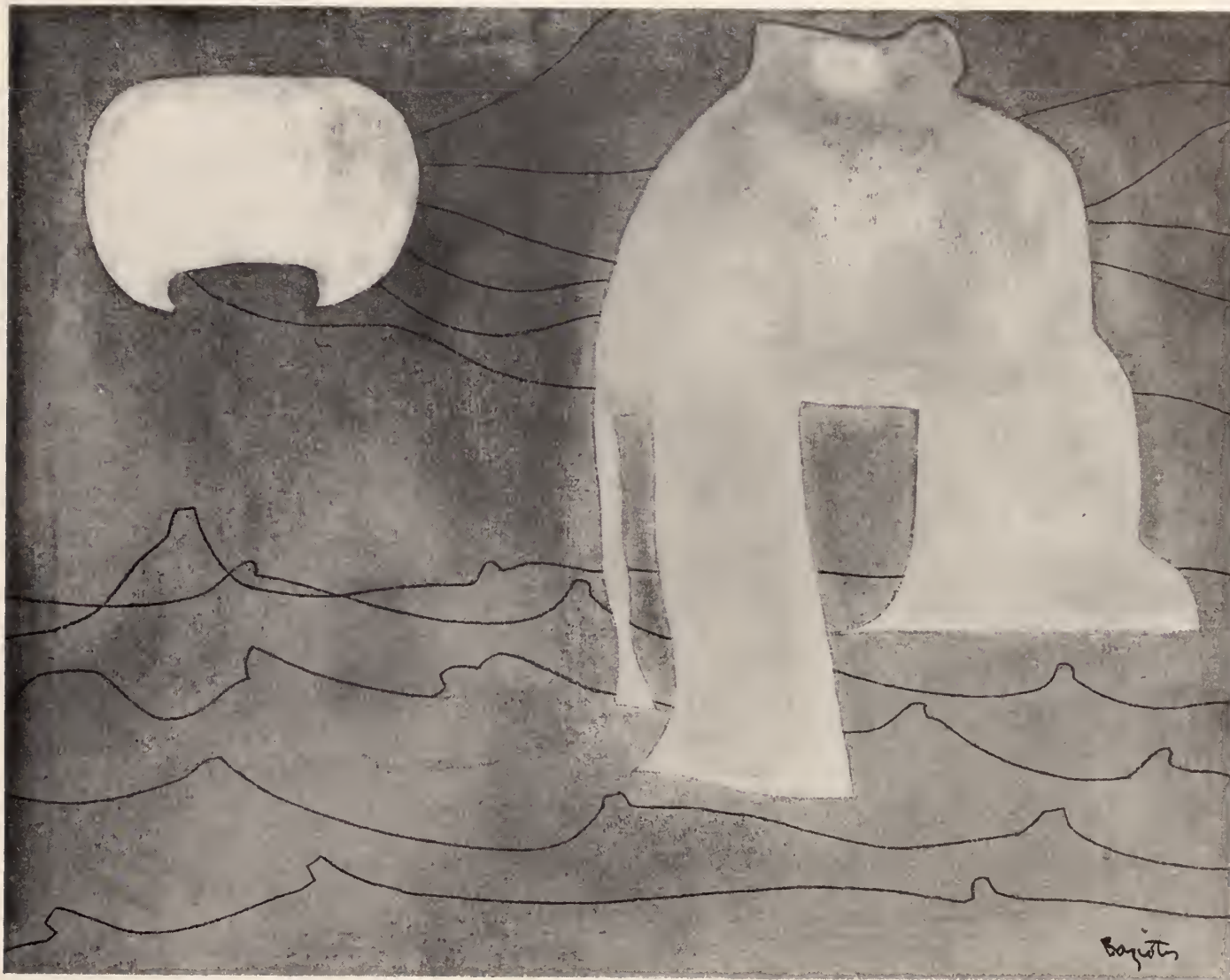
WILLEM DE KOONING: *Montauk Highway*. Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Michael Blankfort.



PHILIP GUSTON: *Ceremony*. Lent by Mr. William Inge.

LOUIS DURCHANEK: *Seated Man*. Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Kingsley.





WILLIAM BAZIOTES: *The Sea*. Lent by Mr. and Mrs. André Previn.



HANS HOFMANN: *The Ravine*. Lent by Miss Benay Venuta and Mr. Fred Clark.





JACK LEVINE: 1932. Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Dalton Trumbo.







YASUO KUNIYOSHI: *Young Couple (Self-portrait)*. Lent by Mr. Adolph Green.



ABRAHAM RATTNER: *Untitled*. Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Abe Burrows.





YASUO KUNIYOSHI: *Lover's Pike*. Lent by Mr. Jack Lawrence.



PAVEL TCHELITCHEW:
Portrait of Charles Henri Ford.
Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Zachary Scott.



STANTON MACDONALD-WRIGHT: *Still Life, Apples*. Lent by Mr. Gene Kelly.



ROBERT D'ARISTA: *Coffee Table*.
Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Tony Randall.







ROBERT GOODNOUGH: *Summer No. 1*. Lent by Mr. Herbert Machiz.



CHARLES BURCHFIELD: *Over the Dam*. Lent by Miss Katharine Cornell.



THOMAS HART BENTON: *Still Life*.
Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Fonda.



JOHN LEVEE: *July III*, 1957. Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Rodgers.

NATHANIEL KAZ: *Don Quixote*. Lent by Mr. Billy Rose.





CHARLES OSCAR: *Page*. Lent by Mr. Orson Bean.



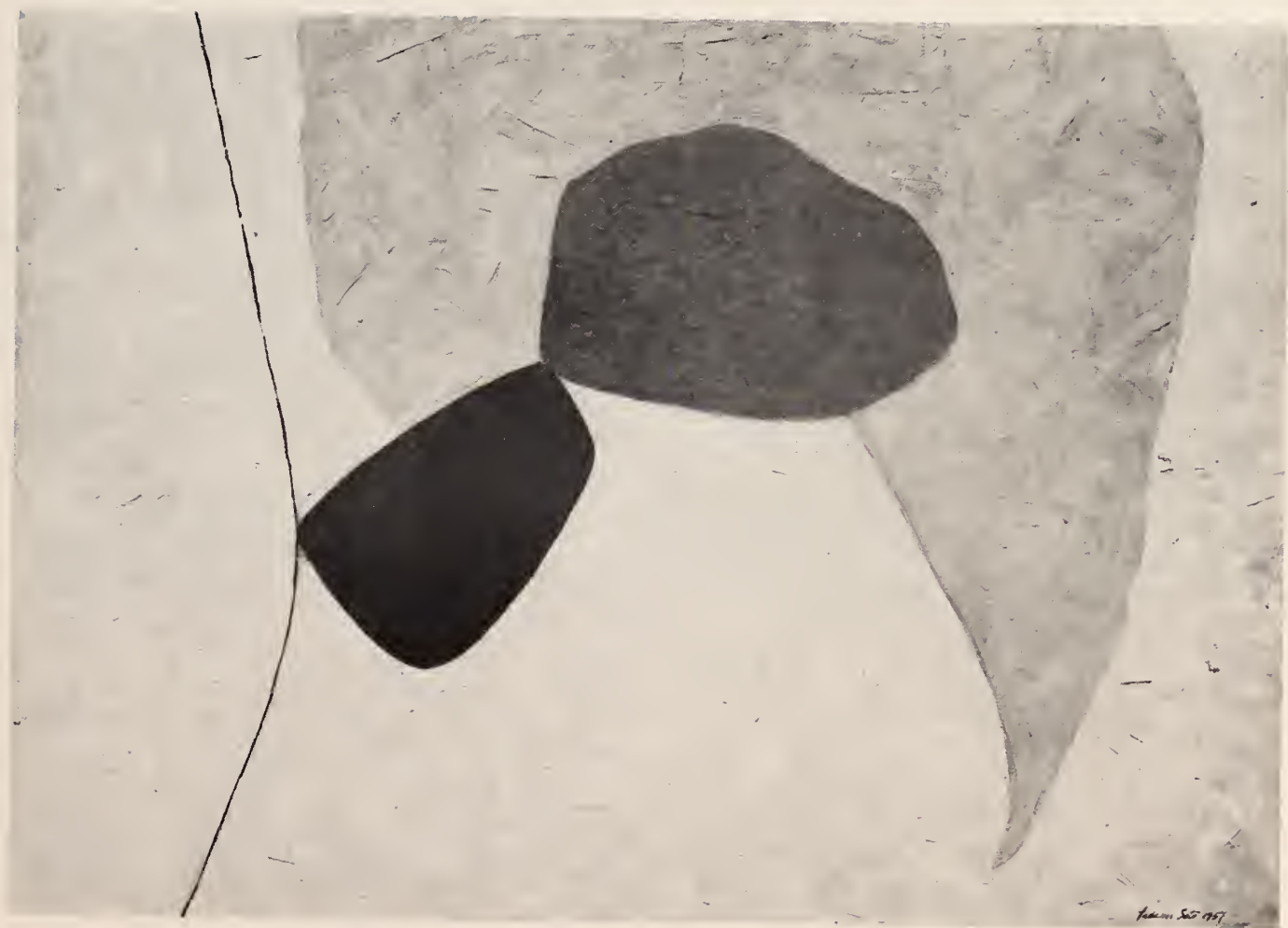


GEORGIA O'KEEFFE: *Ranchos Church Front*. Lent by Mr. Jack Lawrence.





ROBERT VICKREY: *Nun with Puppets*. Lent by Mr. James Monks.

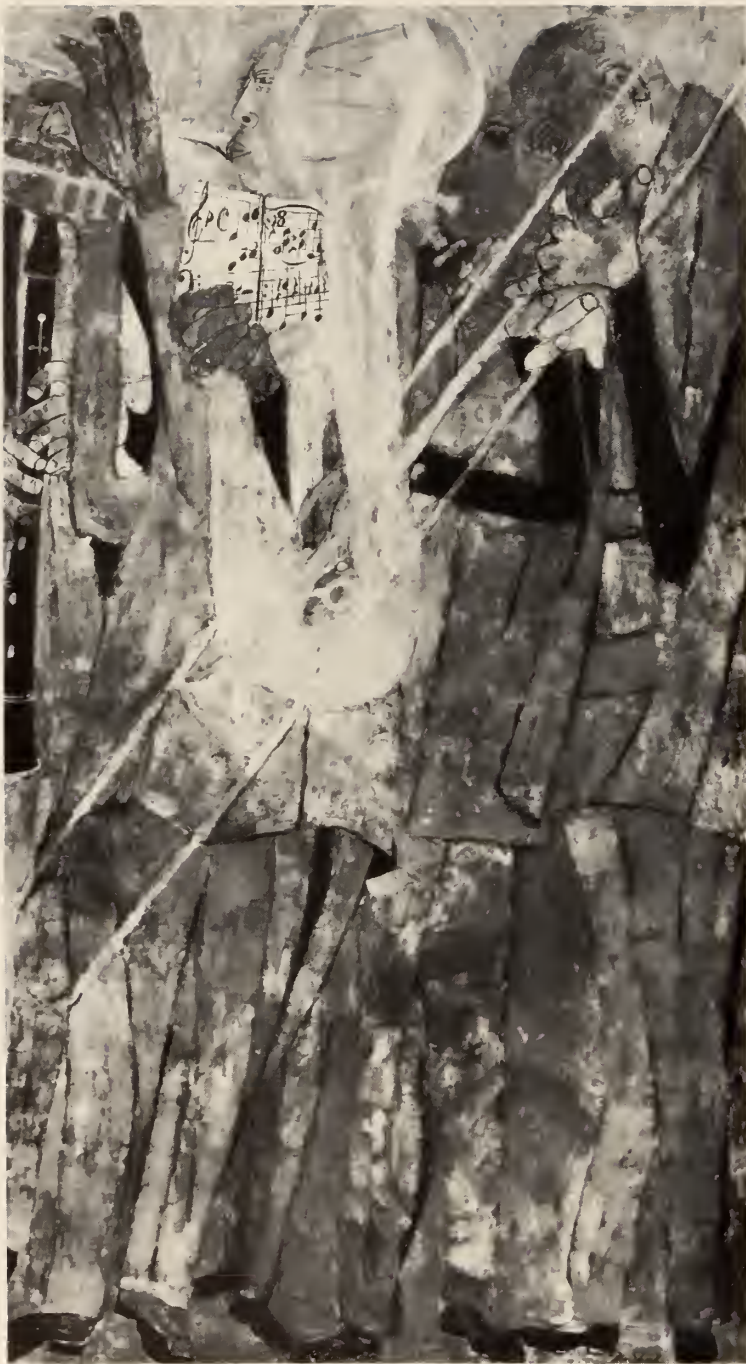




CARROLL CLOAR: *A Resting*. Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Richard S. Stark.



JOSEPH GLASCO: *Sleepers*. Lent by Mr. John Butler.



BEN SHAHN: *O, When the Saints.*
Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Fred W. Friendly.

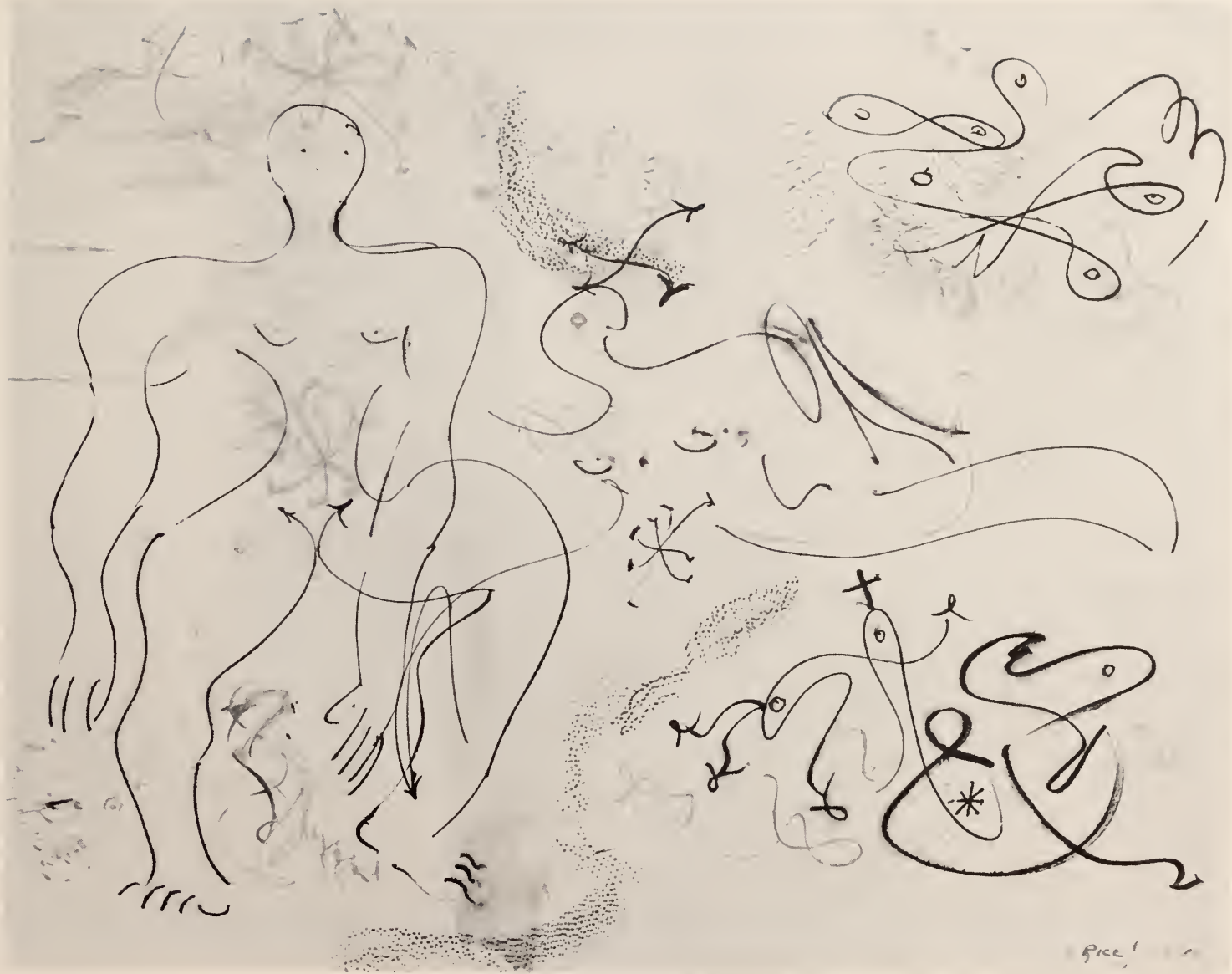




GEORGE GROSZ: *Subway Scene*.
Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Harpo Marx.

WILLIAM THON: *The Overlook*. Lent by Miss Bonnie Cashin.





I. RICE PEREIRA: *Untitled*. Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Adler.



JOHN KANE: *Industry's Increase*. Lent by Mr. and Mrs. William S. Paley.





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We also wish to thank the following Galleries for their help and cooperation: The Alan Gallery, Carstairs Gallery, Durlacher Bros., G Gallery, Graham, Robert Isaacs Gallery, Martha Jackson Gallery, M. Knoedler & Co., Inc., Kraushaar Galleries, Midtown Galleries, Nordness Gallery, Frank Perls Gallery (Los Angeles), Esther Robles Gallery (Los Angeles), and Catherine Viviamo Gallery.

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LUCILE BROKAW: *Golden One*.
Lent by Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Barrett.

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